

**REMARKS:**

In the Office Action dated October 23, 2006, claims 61, 62, 64-73 and 75-77, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 14 and 61-63 and 67-77 remain in this application and claims 1-13, 15-60 and 64-66 have been canceled.

Claims 61, 62, 64-73 and 75-77 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The claims have been amended to clarify the language found indefinite. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 62 is not a duplicate of claim 14. Although the unspecific binding to the solid phase is reduced by the use of the conjugate comprising analyte specific reactant and alkylene oxide, the unspecific binding can be reduced further by other measures such as using a blocker. In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 66 was objected to as a duplicate of claim 14. Claim 66 has been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 14 and 61-63 and 67-77 are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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